

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to. Fig. 2 has been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. A replacement sheet is enclosed.

Claims 1-28 and 30 have been rejected.

Claim 29 was objected to.

Claim 29 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3-5, 6, 11, 19, 23 and 27 have been amended.

Claims 1-28 and 30 are pending in this application.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 27 (and 1, 6, 11, 19 and 23) has been amended to incorporate all the recitations of claim 29, which is subsequently canceled. Therefore, claim 27 is now deemed allowable. Claims 28 and 30 are dependent on newly amended claim 27, hereby incorporated by reference, and are now deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the above objection.

Claims 1-7, 10-15, 18-28 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Marsh et al. (US 5,105,662) in view of Benjey (US 6,282,953) and Cook et al. (US 6,672,138). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of amended independent claim 27, in apparatus form. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 27 in amended form would be allowable, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 3-5 have been amended to properly follow from amended claim 1.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on amended claim 1, hereby incorporated by reference, and are now deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the recitations of amended independent claim 27, in another apparatus form. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 27 in amended form would be allowable, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 6 is allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 7-10 are dependent on amended claim 6, hereby incorporated by reference, and are now deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to include the recitations of amended independent claim 27, in system form. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 27 in amended form would be allowable, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 11 is allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 12-18 are dependent on amended claim 11, hereby incorporated by reference, and are now deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Independent claim 19 has been amended to include the recitations of amended independent claim 27, in another system form. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 27 in amended form would be allowable, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 19 is allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 20-22 are dependent on amended claim 19, hereby incorporated by reference, and are now deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to include the recitations of amended independent claim 27, in another method form. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 27 in amended form would be allowable, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 23 is allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 24-26 are dependent on amended claim 23, hereby incorporated by reference, and are now deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Claims 27, 28 and 30 have been amended into a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the applicant's attorney at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection or through an Examiner's amendment.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

Please note the new correspondence address below.

New correspondence address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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